

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2015

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Suprenant, Shay, Haff, Pitts, O'Brien, Armstrong

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Henke

SUPERVISORS: Lindsay, Gang, Shaw, Dumas, Hicks, Campbell, Brown,

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Al Nolette, Treasurer

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Tim Hardy, Deputy Director Public Safety-Communications

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Mike Gray, Youth/Alternative Sentencing Director

Anthony White, Probation Director

Tony Jordan, District Attorney

Sheriff Murphy

Public & Media

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – December 2, 2014
- 3) Department Reports/Requests:
 - A) EMS
 - 1) Fire Advisory Board Appointment – Leroy Catone, Whitehall First Response
 - B) Alternative Sentencing
 - 1) Program Updates
 - C) Public Safety
 - 1) CAD Update
 - D) District Attorney
 - 1) 2014 Program Reviews & Felony/Misdemeanor Caseload Reports
 - 2) Discuss Possible Impact of New Arraignments & Discovery Rules
 - 3) Discuss Office Hours
 - E) Probation
 - 1) Discuss Draft Firearms/Deadly Physical Force Policy
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Suprenant called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2014 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted.

EMS – A motion to appoint Leroy Catone, Whitehall First Response to the EMS Advisory Board was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Armstrong and adopted.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING – Mike Gray, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Program Updates: Pre-Trial Services – Mike distributed and explained the attached Pre-Trial Services handout. The goal of this program is “To provide objective information to the courts regarding failure to appear for jail detainees who are incarcerated, pre-trial due to lack of bail funds and to supervise electronic monitoring of offenders.” In 2014, 911 inmates were screened through this program. Five thousand forty four pretrial jail days were diverted that equates to jail cost savings of \$428,810. He notes with the raise in age from 16 to 18 will significantly impact the electronic monitoring. The District Attorney stated there is a proposed bill to increase the age to 17 as of January 1, 2016 and to 18 the following year. It is also planned to have a diversion specialist placed in the Probation Office. Discussion ensued on the impact of raising the age to various departments.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Tony Jordan, DA, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Crime Victim Advocate Program – The attached handout indicates the service activities and hours of service related to this program. He feels this is a very valuable service to the community. From October to December 2014, 2940 hours of services were provided.
- 2014 Program Reviews & Felony/Misdemeanor Caseload Reports – Misdemeanors only in Hudson Falls Court totaled 223 in 2014, Village of Whitehall 84, Village of Fort Edward 81, Town of Kingsbury 78, Fort Ann 74, Hartford 16 and Argyle 23. He will provide a list for next month's meeting. He stated changes in the laws from the Governor's Office are going to impact Washington County.
- Local/Night Court Updates - His office is out covering local courts most nights during the month. He stated the Jail now offers email service to the inmates producing significant documentation.
- Discuss Possible Impact of New Arraignments - Changes with Public Defender services will also impact his office. Central booking was suggested by the Magistrates and asked if that was something the Board would consider.
- Discovery Rules - They try to provide as much discovery upfront as they can. There is serious talk about new rules that will be very cumbersome on small offices. Body cams are subject to FOIL and will be one more item to review.
- Discussed concerns with an inmate set to be released on parole from State Prison that plans to reside in the Fort Ann/Hartford area.
- Forfeiture Funds – Requesting use of forfeiture fund to buy a large screen TV and stand for displaying evidence in court estimating a cost of \$2,500. The County Administrator recommends moving \$3,000 to make sure all expenses are covered. A motion to approve and forward to the Finance Committee a budget amendment for the use of forfeiture funds to purchase a TV and stand for court was moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted. He will prepare a forfeiture plan for the next meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Tim Hardy, Deputy Director of Communications Public Safety, addressed the following items with the committee, handout attached:

- CAD Project – CAD handout distributed and explained attached. Most of the outstanding issues have been worked out and they are working with the vendor on remaining items. Currently, the most problematic outstanding item is the map functionality and other outstanding items are map large scale, programming of Fire Agency alarm assignments, wrecker services rotation system and mobile assess system for Fire/EMS agencies. Items in progress are the METRO interface, web reporting system for Fire/EMS agencies and Road Patrol SJS Migration to AGISENT RMS. Mr. O'Brien expressed concerns that any changes or updates are properly tested with the system and it was recommended that IT confirm everything is being done to ensure the integrity of this very vital service.
- Argyle Fire Department and Radio Automatic Number Identification Issue – The Chief has agreed to comply with the County's system and Public Safety plans to go over and help them with programing.

SHERIFF – Sheriff Murphy addressed the following items with the committee:

- Body Cameras – The department has been using body cameras and they recently purchased more of these with forfeiture funds. He feels it is a great tool.
- Investigator Hardy and Deputy CJ Davidson were recognized and received an award for their work with the Boy Scouts Explorer Post.
- Stale Voucher – A motion to authorize payment of stale voucher due to Albany Medical College in the amount of \$86.41 from August 2013 delayed due to issues involving who was to pay inmate claim was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.
- License Plate Reader Grant - A motion authorize License Plate Reader grant in the amount of \$18,150 and forward to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded and adopted.
- Homeland Security Grant - \$80,000 grant with \$20,000 of it towards law enforcement terrorism prevention activities – grant period September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2016. A motion to accept Homeland Security Grant funds was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted. The remainder of the funds go to Public Safety. The Sheriff's funding will be used for equipment.
- Permission to Apply for Marine Patrol Grant through the Canal Corporation – 25% local match and can request up to \$40,000, handout attached – The Sheriff is requesting \$13,240 and the 25% match would be paid with forfeiture funds. This grant will pay for personnel and fuel costs. A motion to approve applying for Marine Patrol Grant was moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.
- Forfeiture Spending Plan for 2015 – Spending Plan for Forfeiture Funds 2015 handout distributed, attached. The current forfeiture funds available as of January 28, 2015 total \$375,646.78. The handout details the usage of funds. A motion to accept the forfeiture plan and forward 2014, additional renovation costs, and 2015 budget amendments to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted. Mr. Haff opposed.
- Hours of Civil Office – Requesting a resolution to state the hours of operation of the Civil Office because they are trying to get accredited. Hours of operation are defined in County Law 206. A motion to present a resolution setting the hours of operation of the Civil Office at 8:30AM to 4:00PM and close from 12:00 to 12:30 for lunch was moved by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Pitts. Discussion. Having the office open in the evening was suggested. Sheriff Murphy stated there is an officer on duty until 8:30PM and possibly appointments could be scheduled in the evening. A motion to present a resolution setting the hours of operation of the Civil Office at 8:30AM to 4:00PM and close from 12:00PM to 12:30PM for lunch was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.

PROBATION – Anthony White, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

Draft/Revised Firearms/Deadly Physical Force Policy – Distributed and discussed the revised policy, attached. Discussion ensued. The policy has been reviewed and approved by the Sheriff but not the County Attorney. This is the first time the committee has seen this revised policy. The training that the Probation Officers will need to go through mirrors the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff has also approved the Use of Force Policy, attached. Officers will carry pepper spray and wear vests at night and during unannounced field visits. How the guns will be secured and what the cabinet will look like was discussed. "An officer who is in possession of a department issued weapon shall wear said weapon while performing their

duties in the field.” The County Attorney stated they have to successfully complete firearms training to become a Probation Officer. He also stated that if you have a firearm then you should have all the other options, i.e. pepper spray, vest, credentials, available to you all the time; standard deploy kit. The duty weapon is only to be worn while on duty. Tasers were considered. Chairman Suprenant stated the Probation Department has stated the need for weapons and that has been supported by other law enforcement agencies. Supervisor Dumas stated we need to keep safe the people who keep us safe. The number of hours that Probation Officers are in the field at night is low. The committee entertained public comments from Paul Donaldson stating his opposition to arming Probation Officers. A physiological exam is not a requirement to become a Probation Officer. A motion to accept this policy was moved by Mr. Haff with minor clerical corrections and seconded by Mr. Armstrong. Discussion. Mr. O'Brien expressed concern that the County Attorney has not reviewed this policy. The resolution approving the use of weapons gives the approval to the committee to authorize the policy. The Sheriff stated the Use of Force is the most important policy. A motion to amend to add upon policy review of Firearms Policy which includes the Use of Force Policy by the County Attorney was moved by Mr. Haff, seconded by Mr. Armstrong and adopted. The motion to accept this policy was moved by Mr. Haff, seconded by Mr. Armstrong and adopted as amended.

OTHER BUSINESS: A motion to enter an executive session to discuss information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed information was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Haff and adopted. A motion to return to regular session was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Armstrong and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors*